

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 070085 TOSEC 030096
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
/022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER:BB
APPROVED BY S/PRS:FZBROWN
S/S:SGOLDSMITH
-----300113Z 039902 /72-62

O 300048Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 070085 TOSEC 030096

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

NO. 11

TEXT OF DON OBERDORFER MARCH 29 ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON POST

"PRESIDENT CARTER, IN HIS FIRST EXTENSIVE DECISION-MAKING ON THE U.S. ROLE AS ARMS MERCHANT, HAS APPROVED NEARLY \$2 BILLION IN MILITARY SALES TO NATO COUNTRIES AND OTHER ALLIES IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY.

"CLOSE TO 25 MILITARY SALES WERE APPROVED BY CARTER LATE LAST WEEK OUT OF A LONGER LIST OF PENDING DEALS WITH A TOTAL PRICE TAG OF \$5 BILLION TO \$6 BILLION, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS. THE ITEMS APPROVED WERE DESCRIBED AS RELATIVELY NON-CONTRO-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 070085 TOSEC 030096

VERSIAL, INCLUDING HOWITZERS AND TANKS FOR ISRAEL, ABOUT \$500 MILLION IN CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION FOR SAUDI ARABIA, JET FIGHTERS FOR GREECE AND A VARIETY OF ITEMS FOR NATO COUNTRIES JORDAN, PAKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

"CARTER'S DECISIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON AND NOTIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED SALES SENT TO CONGRESS AS REQUIRED BY LAW,

OFFICIALS SAID. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS DRAWING UP A JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH TRANSACTION TO BE SENT TO CAPITOL HILL IN KEEPING WITH A PROMISE TO LAWMAKERS BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE.

"UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE LUCY W. BENSON, WHO TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT CARTER ASSUMED A PERSONAL ROLE IN THE REVIEW OF EACH ARMS DECISION SO FAR PRESENTED TO HIM.

"ACCORDING TO BENSON, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS ADOPTED 'VERY IMPORTANT' CHANGES IN ITS ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES TOWARD ARMS SALES EVEN BEFORE THE FORMAL ADOPTION OF A NEW PRESIDENTIAL POLICY THAT IS EXPECTED IN MID-APRIL.

"IN THE PAST THE PRESUMPTION WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD SELL A MILITARY ITEM TO ALLIES AND FRIENDS ABROAD IN THE ABSENCE OF A SHOWING THAT SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD BE AGAINST U.S. INTEREST. NOW POLICYMAKERS HAVE ADOPTED A 'NEGATIVE PRESUMPTION' ACCORDING TO BENSON, PLACING THE BURDEN OF JUSTIFICATION ON THOSE WHO WANT A SALE TO GO FORWARD.

"THE QUESTIONS NOW ARE, 'DO THEY HAVE TO HAVE THIS? AND WHY DO THEY HAVE TO HAVE THIS?' BENSON SAID. SHE SAID THE CHANGE WILL PRODUCE A SLOWDOWN IN ARMS SALES ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY, EVEN WITHOUT THE ADOPTION OF DETAILED CRITERIA, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 070085 TOSEC 030096

PROCEDURES AND ANALYTICAL TOOLS ENVISIONED IN THE PROPOSED NEW PRESIDENTIAL POLICY.

"BENSON SAID AN INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF ARMS SALE POLICY IS SCHEDULED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY APRIL 11, AND A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE QUESTION IS EXPECTED TWO OR THREE DAYS THEREAFTER. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW PRESIDENTIAL POLICY IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW SHORTLY AFTER THAT, SHE SAID.

"DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, CARTER WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF EXISTING U.S. POLICY IN THIS FIELD, CHARGING THAT 'ALMOST COMPLETELY UNRESTRICTED' SALES OF U.S. MILITARY WEAPONS ABROAD WAS 'A POLICY AS CYNICAL AS IT IS DANGEROUS.'

"AMONG THE MATTERS TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION IN THE NEW ARMS POLICY WILL BE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS REQUIRED FOR TRAINING AND OPERATION ABROAD OF THE ARMS THAT

ARE PROPOSED FOR SALE, BENSON SAID. SHE SAID CONSIDERA-

TION WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE IMPACT OF ARMS SALES ON
THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY, INCLUDING UNEMPLOYMENT.
CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE070085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTRATTNER:BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0226
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977036/aaaaaevc.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e231f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3108513
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL NO. 11 TEXT OF DON OBERDORFER MARCH 29 ARTICLE FROM WASHI
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, MASS, US, XX, WASHINGTON POST, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (CARTER, JIMMY), (OBERDORFER, DON)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e231f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009